



4

三田紀房



BUYS SURRENDERS







IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN IF WE SIT ON THOSE STOCKS THAT OUR PREDECESSORS BOUGHT, MONEY WILL CONTINUE ROLLING IN.



ART ONLY HAS MEANING WHEN IT IS APPRECIATED BY THE PUBLIC.

PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES ONLY HAVE VALUE WHEN THEY ARE SEEN BY PEOPLE.

ALL OF IT TURNS TO JUNK!

IF PEOPLE HOARD THEM IN A COLLECTION THAT NO ONE SEES, THE ART BECOMES VALUELESS!

SO WE SELL THEM.. AND THEN WHAT?

YES.

IS THAT WHY YOU SUGGEST WE SELL THEM?





YOU TAKE IT TO AUCTIONS, HAVE BUYERS COMPETE, AND FINALLY IT GETS SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. EVEN THEN, WE'RE NOT GUARANTEED TO GET THE PRICE WE'D HOPED FOR.

GOLD IS EASY TO TURN TO CASH, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ART, IT'S VERY DIFFICULT.



ALL WE CAN DO IN THE INVESTMENT CLUB IS KEEP THEM IN STORAGE.

NOT ONLY THAT, WE CAN'T LIQUIDATE THESE MATERIAL ASSETS WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE FUJITA FAMILY.



TIME...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT FOR THEM TO GROW.

PLUS, STARTUP INDUSTRIES DON'T SUIT OUR INVESTMENT CLUB.



SO WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON INDUSTRIES WE CAN EASILY ANALYZE. VENTURE BUSINESSES DON'T GIVE US ENOUGH INFORMATION, SO THEY'RE OUT OF OUR REACH.

WE'RE STUDENTS. MOST OF OUR TIME AT SCHOOL IS SPENT IN CLASSROOMS. WE HAVE TO PREPARE OUR INVESTMENTS IN THE SHORT TIME WE'RE GIVEN AFTER SCHOOL.



BUT IT'S A PHYSICAL IMPOSSIBILITY.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR REASONING.



ALL WE NEED TO DO IS FOLLOW OUR PREDECESSORS WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS, AND HIT THE TARGETED ANNUAL RETURN.

LISTEN, ZAIZEN. WE'RE EXPECTED TO MANAGE OUR FUNDS AND EARN WITH STOCKS TO MAINTAIN THE SCHOOL'S EXPENDITURES.



I'VE HEARD THE SAYING THAT DOJUKU MUST REMAIN STANDING EVEN IF JAPAN GETS DESTROYED.

THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!

IF A NATION ISN'T PROSPERING, ALL THE OUTSTANDING PEOPLE WILL LEAVE THE COUNTRY! AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, DOJUKU WILL BE RUINED!

BUT IF THE NATION IS DESTROYED WHILE THE SCHOOL REMAINS STANDING, IT'S MEANINGLESS!

HUH?

REN-SAN

NO, I'M JUST BEING REALISTIC.

ARE YOU TRYING TO PREACH TO YOUR SENPAIS?





IT'S LIKE
JAPAN IS
TRYING TO
CHALLENGE
B29S WITH
BAMBOO
SPEARS!

THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE
COUNTRIES IS
THE SAME AS THE
DIFFERENCE IN
MILITARY POWER
BETWEEN THE
NATIONS IN THE
PACIFIC WAR!

IN THE STATE
OF CALIFORNIA,
THEY RECEIVE
300 BILLION
YEN IN FUNDING
EVERY TEN
YEARS!

ANNUAL FUNDING
FOR REGENERATIVE
MEDICINE IS 20 BILLION
YEN IN JAPAN, BUT IT
IS 94 BILLION YEN IN
AMERICA, AND THAT FROM
GOVERNMENT-FUNDED
RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
ALONE!



BUT EVEN
AFTER HIS
RESEARCH GOT
IMPLEMENTED,

ALL THE
ECONOMIC
BENEFITS
WENT TO
AMERICA.

KYOTO
UNIVERSITY'S
PROFESSOR
YAMANAKA
WON THE
NOBEL
PRIZE...



IN WHAT
OTHER NATION
DOES A
NOBEL-PRIZE
WINNING
RESEARCHER
HAVE TO RUN A
MARATHON FOR
RESEARCH
FUND-RAISING?

JAPAN IS
ALWAYS LIKE
THAT. EVEN IF
A RESEARCHER
OBTAINS DRAMATIC
RESULTS WITH
BLOOD AND TEARS,
THEY ALWAYS
FAIL AT THE
MANUFACTURING
STAGE.



TO DO THAT,
WE HAVE TO
AGGRESSIVELY
INVEST! WE
HAVE TO
REVIVE OUR
ASSETS THAT
ARE ASLEEP!

WE HAVE
TO ERADICATE
THAT KIND OF
PATHETIC
SITUATION,
AS FAST AS
WE CAN!

IF WE COULD SELL OFF THE ASSETS IN THE SAFE HERE, WILL YOU ENTRUST ME WITH INVESTING THE MONEY?

AS TO OUR CURRENT STOCK INVESTMENTS, OUR FUNDS SHOULD BE ACTIVE IN MARKET AND INDUSTRY STOCKS, JUST AS WE'VE BEEN DOING.

I WILL NOT MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE INVESTMENT CLUB! SO PLEASE...

PLEASE!

GOOP!

I'LL DISCUSS IT WITH ZEN-SAN, AND SEE HOW THE FUJITA FAMILY RESPONDS.

I SEE...

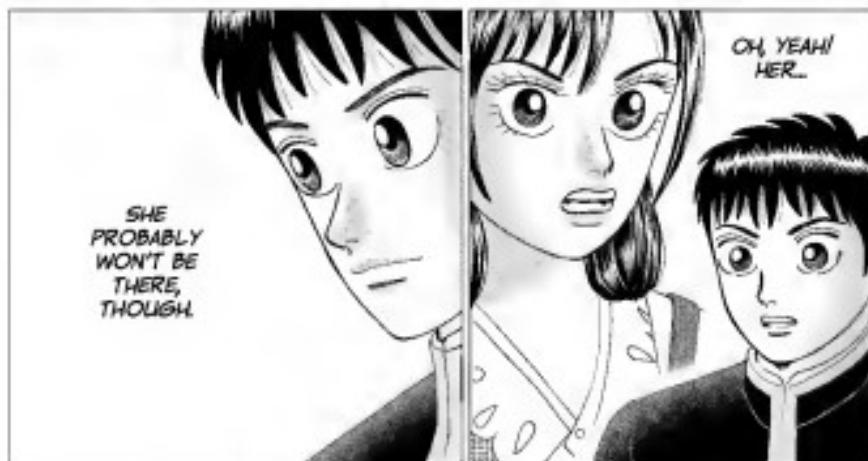






THE
MASTER
SAID THAT
WOULD
BE FINE.





HE'S
COMING
HERE TO
CONVINCE
ME TO
SELL OUR
PROPERTIES
IN THE
SAFE.

ZAIEN
TAKASHI.

YES.

AS I
FEARED,
CHILDREN
OF THE
ZAIEN
FAMILY
LINE ARE
DANGEROUS.

H666

THE RETURN
FLIGHT WILL
ARRIVE IN
SAPPORO
PAST
9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY,
TOMORROW,
WE DEPART
FOR TOKYO
ON A 7:30
A.M. FLIGHT.

WELL...

HOW
WILL YOU
EXPLAIN IT
TO YOUR
PARENTS?

I'LL
LEAVE IT
IN YOUR
HANDS,
THEN.

I'LL TELL
THEM I'VE BEEN
INDUCTED INTO
A CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP
TOURNAMENT.
I DID SOMETHING
LIKE THAT IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, SO I
THINK THEY'LL
BE FINE
WITH IT.







YOU
MUST HAVE
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
THE FUJITA
CLAN.

YOU
MUST
NOT
GO.

SH...
SHUT
UP!













93% OF
JAPAN'S
STARTUP
VENTURES
GO BROKE
IN A MATTER
OF TEN YEARS.

YOUR PLAN
IS UTERLY
UNREALISTIC.

OUT OF THOSE,
MAYBE ONE
COMPANY WILL
SURVIVE. OUT
OF A HUNDRED
PEOPLE THAT
START A
BUSINESS,
ONLY ONE WILL
SUCCEED.

EVEN IF
YOU WERE TO
BET ON THE
REMAINING 7%,
THEY WOULD
BE IN A
STATE OF
MANAGEMENT
AND
MAINTENANCE.

THIS I
FORBID
YOU FROM
IMPLEMENTING
YOUR PLAN.

I DOUBT A
12-YEAR OLD
BOY HAS THE
ABILITY TO PICK
OUT THAT ONE
THAT WILL
SUCCEED.





ALL
RIGHT.
THIS'LL
BE
FUN.

I SEE...
I GET
IT.

I WILL
DEFINITELY
WIN!

I'LL
CONVINCE
HIM!

I NEED
TO LAUNCH
A SURPRISE
ATTACK, MAKE
HIM LOSE
EQUANIMITY...

BUT FIRST,
RELAX...
IF I START
ARGUING
DIRECTLY,
HE'LL ONLY
COUNTER
WITH ANOTHER
ARGUMENT.

THAT'S
IT!

...MAKE HIM
CONFUSED,
AND THEN
MAKE MY
STRIKE.



THAT'S
WHY YOU
PEOPLE
ALWAYS
LOSE TO
AMERICA!



THEY
BEAT
US
IN THE
WAR...

...THEY
RULE OUR
INTERNET, THEY
MANIPULATE
OUR
BUSINESSES...



...AND
THEY'RE
AHEAD OF
US IN BIO-
TECHNOLOGY,
TOO!

HOW MUCH
OF A BEATING
DO YOU WANT
TO KEEP ON
TAKING?

THAT'S THE
TROUBLE
WITH YOUR
GENERATION!





THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH.

LET'S
HEAR
WHAT
YOU'VE
GOT TO
SAY.

FINE, THEN.
I'LL LET
YOU TAKE
CENTER
STAGE.

WHAT
MOTIVATED
YOU TO
COME UP
WITH THIS
IDEA?

THAT'S
ALL.

I DON'T
WANT TO
LOSE TO
AMERICA.

YES.
I HATE
LOSING,
NO
MATTER
WHAT.

YOU
DON'T
LIKE TO
LOSE.
IS THAT
IT?

WHY IS
AMERICA
YOUR
POINT OF
REFERENCE?

BECUSE
AMERICA
WANTS TO
MONOPOLIZE
EVERYTHING.

H/SSS

...IS
THAT JAPAN
LOST THE
COMPETITION
OF SOFTWARE
DEVELOPMENT
TO AMERICA.

WHAT
IRKS
ME THE
MOST...







IS,
NEEDLESS
TO SAY,
MICROSOFT
WINDOWS,
IT'S AN
AMERICAN
CORPORATION.

THE
STANDARD
OF ALL
COMPUTER
OPERATING
SYSTEMS
IN THE
WORLD..

IT'S
SAID THIS
ONSLAIGHT
CAN BE TRACED
TO WINDOWS
95, WHICH WENT
ON SALE IN
1995.

IT'S
INSTALLED
IN OVER
90% OF
COMPUTERS,
AND..

¥189,800[±]
EX 18,980 ±

HOWEVER,
JAPAN WAS
LITERALLY
TEN YEARS
AHEAD OF
WINDOWS,
HAVING
DEVELOPED
AN OS IN
THE 1980S.

THE PERSONAL
COMPUTER
WHICH ANYONE
COULD USE
STARTED
WITH THIS
OPERATING
SYSTEM.



TOKYO
UNIVERSITY'S
SAKAMURA
KEN WAS THE
DEVELOPER
OF TRON.



IT WAS MADE
ACCESSIBLE TO
THE PUBLIC FOR
FREE, WHICH WAS
REVOLUTIONARY;
THIS SURPRISED
THE AMERICAN
RESEARCHERS.

THE
OPERATING
SYSTEM
WAS USER-
FRIENDLY AND
INCREIBLY
STABLE.



...WHICH
LED TO
THE TRON
PROJECT,
WHICH HAD
OVER 140
BUSINESSES
IN IT.

SAKAMURA
KEN'S
IDEAS AND
TECHNOLOGY
ATTRACTED A LOT OF
ATTENTION AND
ACCLAIM...



SO AMERICA APPLIED PRESSURE TO JAPAN.

THEY SAID THAT IF TRON SWEEP ACROSS THE GLOBE, AMERICAN INDUSTRIES DEVELOPING OPERATING SYSTEMS WOULD BE DELIVERED A BLOW...

SO THEY THREATENED TO LIMIT IMPORTS FROM JAPAN, IF JAPAN DIDN'T WITHDRAW FROM THE TRON PROJECT.

AT THE TIME AMERICA WAS OVERWHELMED BY JAPANESE AUTOMOBILES AND HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, AND ITS FOREIGN TRADE WAS SUFFERING BANKRUPTCY.

THE LIFE OF TRON, THE OS FOR THE GENERAL USER, CAME TO AN END.

AS A RESULT, ONE JAPANESE INDUSTRY AFTER ANOTHER DOWNSIZED OUT OF THE TRON PROJECT, AND EVEN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NIXED THE PLAN OF INSTALLING TRON IN COMPUTERS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.



INSTEAD OF ALLOWING TV STATIONS, WHICH HAVE NO CONCERN FOR NATIONAL PROSPERITY, TO CRUSH THEM.

THEY SHOULD'VE IGNORED THE MEDIA HYPE.

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING? IT'S INCREDIBLE.

ARE THEY STUPID OR WHAT?

...AND HAVE SUFFERED FROM HAVING NO BASIC SOFTWARE EVER SINCE.

SO THE OS, WHICH IS THE HEART OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS, WAS NOW IN THE HANDS OF AMERICA. JAPANESE MAKERS TURNED NO PROFIT.

IF THEY HAD ANTICIPATED THE FUTURE RISE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, THEY WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR SOFTWARE. THEY SHOULD'VE GUARDED TRON WITH ALL THEIR NIGHT.

ALL BECAUSE JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT HAD NO STRATEGY.

THEY
MISSIED THEIR
CHANCE AT
LANDING
A CLAIM AS
AUTHORITY
IN I.T.

BUT THEY
DIDN'T... ALL
BECAUSE
THEY HAD
NO VISION
OF THE
FUTURE.

JAPAN
HAD THE
CHANCE TO
BECOME A
STRONGER
NATION.

THERE'S
NO
QUESTION
JAPAN WAS
LEADING
THE
WORLD
IN I.T.
AT THE
TIME.

...JAPAN
WOULD BE
IN VERY A
DIFFERENT
POSITION
TODAY
IN I.T.

IF
TRON HAD
BECOME
THE BASIC
OPERATING
SYSTEM
FOR
GENERAL
USERS...

IT ALL
SEEMS
FUTILE.

BUT THEY
MISSIED THE
BOAT, WHICH
I DEEPLY
REGRET.

IS
THAT
IT IS?

WE DON'T
WANT TO
REPEAT
THE SAME
MISTAKE
WITH LCD
TECHNOLOGY.

I
DEFINITELY
HOPE THAT
WILL BE
THE CASE.

THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS TIME,
JAPANESE
LIQUID CRYSTAL
DISPLAY
TECHNOLOGY
WILL SURPASS
AMERICA'S.

IT
MADE ME
PROUD
TO BE
JAPANESE.

SURE,
PROFESSOR
YAMANAKA
SHINYA'S
DEVELOPMENT
OF LIQUID
CRYSTAL
DISPLAY
TECHNOLOGY
WAS AMAZING.

I
WONDER
ABOUT
THAT...

HUH?

CURRENTLY COUNTRIES ARE INTENSELY COMPETING IN I.P.S. DEVELOPMENT.

BUT THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS ALREADY SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD.

JAPAN'S FINALLY REVISED THEIR APPROVAL STANDARDS FOR REGENERATIVE PHARMACEUTICALS. BUT THE REST OF THE WORLD IS ALREADY WAY AHEAD OF US.

FOLLOWING AMERICA, JAPAN HAS FINALLY DEVELOPED ITS VERSION OF THE NIH, AND IS TRYING TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY.

FUNDING IS SLOW AND LOW; WE'VE LOST THE RACE ALREADY. THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.

THEY'VE ALREADY GONE AROUND THE TRACK WHILE JAPAN LAGS BEHIND.



JAPANESE SKILLS IN
MAKING
THINGS GOSS
HAND-IN-HAND
WITH THE
REGENERATIVE
MEDICINE
INDUSTRY.

YES.

MAKE
THINGS?

THIS PROCESS
NECESSITATES REFINED
MAINTENANCE. WHEN
THE ENVIRONMENT OF
TRANSPLANTATION IS
THOROUGH, QUALITY
GETS PRESERVED;
JAPAN IS THE MOST
ADEPT AT THIS
PROCESS.

CULTIVATING
AND TRANS-
PLANTING
CELLS...

THIS IS THE
FIELD IN WHICH
JAPAN CAN LEAD
THE WORLD
IN HAVING
THE BIGGEST
INFLUENCE, AND
IT'S THE MOST
ESSENTIAL
ASPECT OF THE
REGENERATIVE
MEDICINE
INDUSTRY!

QUALITY
CONTROL
IS WHERE
JAPAN'S
ABILITY
TO MAKE
THINGS
COMES INTO
PLAY!



BUT
WHEN IT
COMES
TO MASS
PRODUCTION,
THEY'VE
STILL GOT
HURDLES TO
JUMP.

THE WORLD'S
INDUSTRIES MAY
BE AHEAD IN THE
COMPETITION
OF I.P.S.
TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT.



JAPANESE
INDUSTRIES
ARE SEASONED
IN QUALITY
CONTROL.
THEY CAN LEAP
OVER THAT
WALL, AND BE
AHEAD OF THE
WORLD!

DESIGNING
SYSTEMS
OF MASS
PRODUCTION
IS THE
PARTICULAR
STRENGTH OF
JAPANESE
INDUSTRIES!



JAPAN IS
GOOD AT
MAKING
THINGS.
IT'S A
JAPANESE
INDUSTRY!

THE
MARKETPLACE
OF THE
REGENERATIVE
MEDICINE
INDUSTRY WILL
GROW TO FIFTY
TIMES ITS
CURRENT
SIZE IN 20
YEARS.

THE DIGITAL INDUSTRY GOT IMITATED BY CHINA AND KOREA, AND JAPAN GOT DEMOLISHED; MASS PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY WILL EVENTUALLY GET SURPASSED, AS WELL!

YOU'RE AN IDIOT! MASS PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY CAN BE EASILY IMITATED!

IF THIS NOBLE WORK ISN'T FUNDED BY THE COUNTRY AND IT GOES THE FRUSTRATING WAY OF TRON, ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?!

IS PROFESSOR YAMANAKA'S WORK GOING TO WASTE, THEN?









BUT
IF YOU
FAIL...

IF YOU
DIVEST THE
ASSETS,
INVEST, AND
SUCCEED, THEN
YOU WILL
BE FREE.



YOU WILL
MOVE INTO
THIS HOUSE,
AND SERVE AS
A HOUSEKEEPER
OF THE FUJITA
FAMILY FOR
THE REST OF
YOUR LIFE.

AFTER YOU
GRADUATE
FROM
DOJUKU,
YOUR LIFE
WILL BE
MINE.



REST
OF... MY...
LIFE...

HOUSE...
KEEPER...



I WILL
SERVE AS A
HOUSEKEEPER
OF THE FUJITA
HOUSEHOLD
FOR THE
REST OF
MY LIFE!

IF MY
INVESTMENT
FAILS...



I
REFUSE!

THERE'S
JUST NO
WAY!

THIS IS
ALSO A
TEST!

BUT IF I DON'T
AGREE TO THE
CONDITION, I
WON'T BE ABLE
TO INVEST.

HMM?
I GET
IT—

YOU
CANNOT
NEGOTIATE
THIS.

HE'S
TESTING ME
AGAIN TO SEE
IF I'LL TRY
AND BARGAIN
MY WAY OUT
OF THIS
ABSOLUTELY
RIDICULOUS
CONDITION.

WHAT...

HOUSEKEEPER
FOR LIFE. IF
YOU CANNOT
AGREE TO IT,
THEN GET UP
AND LEAVE.

ARGUE ALL
YOU WANT;
I WILL NOT
WITHDRAW
THE
CONDITION.

WHAT
IS?

ISN'T THAT A
LITTLE WEIRD?

WAIT A
SECOND,
PLEASE.

THAT'S
WHAT I WAS
ASSURED, SO
I CAME ALL
THE WAY
HERE FROM
SAPPORO.

I WAS
TOLD I
COULD GET
PERMISSION IF
I CONVINCED
YOU, THE
MASTER OF
THE FUJITA
FAMILY.

BUT YOU
AGREED, AND
NOW YOU'RE
SETTING A
CONDITION.
WOULDN'T YOU
SAY THAT'S
BREAKING THE
RULES?

IF MY
EXPLANATION
TO YOU WAS
INSUFFICIENT
AND HENCE
UNACCEPTABLE,
I'LL GLADLY
LEAVE.

YES,
BECAUSE
YOU SHOULD
HAVE LAID THE
CONDITION
DOWN
FROM THE
OUTSET.

YOU
THINK
SO?

VERY
LENIENT?

AS FAR
AS I'M
CONCERNED,
THE
CONDITION
IS VERY
LENIENT.

THIS IS A
QUESTION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.
IT'S
MORALLY
WRONG!

YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT A
PERSON'S
FUTURE!

IT'S A
MENTALITY
FROM
BYGONE
DAYS OF
SLAVERY!

YOU'RE
SELLING A
HUMAN LIFE
FOR THINGS
LIKE
PAINTINGS
AND
SCULPTURES.

YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
THE
REST
OF MY
LIFE!

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
IT'S
LENIENT?

WHAT...

IS YOUR
LIFE SO
HIGHLY
VALUABLE?



HUMAN LIFE
DOESN'T
HAVE THAT
MUCH
VALUE!



IS A
RAINDROP,
AN ASH
IN THE
FIREPLACE,
A FLEA...

ONE
HUMAN
LIFE...

A FLEA?
REALLY?

THAT'S
WAY TOO...

IT'S
HUMANIST,
ELITIST
MENDACITY
TO SAY
THAT LIFE IS
PRECIOUS
AND
IMPORTANT.

IT'S
LIKE
THAT.

WHEN THAT
GOES BADLY,
THEY LAMENT
AND BLAME
EVERYTHING
BUT
THEMSELVES.

BECAUSE OF
THE BIASED
BELIEF THAT
ONE'S OWN
LIFE HAS
HIGH VALUE,
PEOPLE TAKE
WRONG
PATHS.



BUREAUCRATS
ARE
DEPENDENT
ON
ORGANIZATIONS.

POLITICIANS
ARE
DEPENDENT
ON
VOTERS.

ADVENTURERS
ARE
DEPENDENT
ON
SPONSORS.

RESEARCHERS
ARE
DEPENDENT
ON
FUNDING.

WRITERS ARE
DEPENDENT ON
READERS.

ACTORS AND
MUSICIANS
ARE
DEPENDENT
ON
AUDIENCES.

FREEDOM?

WHERE
IS THE
FREEDOM
IN ANY OF
THAT?

ZAIEN-KUN,
LET ME ASK
YOU THIS.



JOB-HUNTING?

A TYPICAL
EXAMPLE
OF THIS
IS THE
COLLEGE
STUDENT'S
JOB-
HUNTING.

THEY
MAKE LIFE
CHOICES
BASED ON
THAT
MISTAKEN
ASSUMP-
TION.

...TO JOIN
A RACE, A RACE
DECIDING WHO
WILL PROVIDE
THEIR TIME IN
LABOR TO WHICH
INDUSTRY FOR
ABOUT 40 YEARS
AS A WORKER.

TO JOB-
HUNT IS...

300
MILLION YEN...
INVESTMENTS?

PUT
ANOTHER
WAY... YOU
COULD SAY
JOBS
ARE 300
MILLION
YEN
INVEST-
MENTS.



THIS
IS AN
INVEST-
MENT OF
HUMAN
LIFE
ITSELF!

THE LIFETIME
FUNDING OF
AN AVERAGE
SALARY-MAN
IS ABOUT 280
MILLION YEN. IN
OTHER WORDS, HE
DEVOTES HIS LIFE
TO AN INDUSTRY
FOR A PRICE THAT
IS CLOSE TO 300
MILLION YEN.



JOB-
HUNTING IS
THE START
OF THE
IMPORTANT
RACE TO
DETERMINE
WHETHER
ONE WILL
WIN OR
LOSE IN
LIFE.

WILL THAT
INVESTMENT
YIELD BENEFITS
AND RETURNS
THAT LEAD TO
HAPPINESS?



AND OF COURSE, IF IT WEREN'T FOR CORPORATIONS ON WHICH LIVES DEPEND, THERE WOULDN'T BEEN ANY WORK, AND THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY INCOME.

A HUMAN LIFE IS ONLY WORTH ABOUT 300 MILLION YEN, WHICH DOESN'T HAVE THAT MUCH VALUE.



ONE MUST THINK, AND THEN DECIDE.

IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS LACK OF FREEDOM THAT ONE MUST CONSIDER WHERE TO INVEST ONE'S LIFE.



THEY FOOLHARDILY FORCE AHEAD AND EASILY DECIDE THEIR PLACE OF LIFE-INVESTMENT WILLY-NILLY.

HOWEVER, JAPANESE COLLEGE STUDENTS PUT NO THOUGHT INTO THESE THINGS WHATSOEVER.



IT'S THE WORST KIND OF ACTION TO TAKE AS AN INVESTOR.

ONCE THEY'RE EMPLOYED, EVEN IF SITUATIONS TAKE A DOWNTURN, THEY DON'T CUT THEIR LOSSES; THEY STICK TO THE JOB AS IF THEY ARE PICKLED IN SALT, GRIPING ABOUT THEIR DISSATISFACTION FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

THE GREATEST REASON WHY PEOPLE FAIL AT THE INVESTMENT OF LIFE IS BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE BORN FREE.

THEY MISTAKENLY BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE VALUABLE, AND DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE REAL TRUTH OF THINGS.





I WILL
ACCEPT
YOUR
TERMS.

I
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
YOU
SAY.



WAIT...
ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

ZAIEN-
KUN...





BUT
THAT'LL
BE THEN.
THIS IS
NOW...

...AND I WILL
FIGHT, AND MAKE
FREEDOM MY
OWN THROUGH
VICTORY!







ZAIZen
TAKASHI, A
FORMIDABLE
FORCE TO BE
RECKONED
WITH.

HE MADE HIS
DECISION RIGHT
ON THE SPOT...



...BRING
CALAMITOUS
ADVERSITY
UPON
DOJUKU
ONE DAY!

THAT
BOY WILL
SURELY...



...NEVER TAKES BACK OR MODIFIES WHAT HE SAYS,

HE...

THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW, YOU KNOW?

YOU'RE SO STUPID, AGREEING TO BE A HOUSEKEEPER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

I FIGURED AS MUCH.

...THAT ART AND ANTIQUES ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO DIVEST, AND TAKE A LOT OF TIME.

BEFORE YOU GOT HERE, MY GRANDFATHER SAID...

I DON'T ASSUME WE CAN SELL THEM ALL AT ONCE, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE AT A TIME, AS LONG AS WE CAN KEEP MAKING THE MONEY FOR INVESTMENTS...

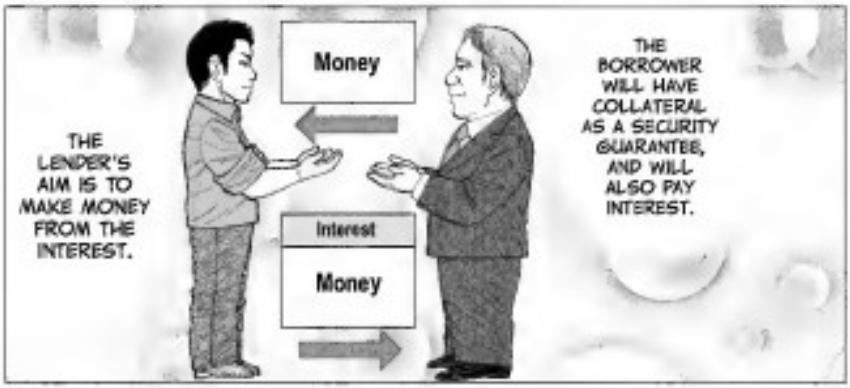
I'M AWARE OF THAT.





MONEY
YOU LOAN
WILL
EVENTUALLY
BE PAID
BACK
WHOLE
AND WITH
INTEREST.

LENDING IS
LOANING
MONEY.



THE
LENDER'S
AIM IS TO
MAKE MONEY
FROM THE
INTEREST.

Money

Interest

Money

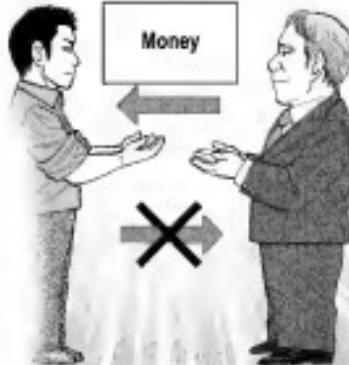
THE
BORROWER
WILL HAVE
COLLATERAL
AS A SECURITY
GUARANTEE,
AND WILL
ALSO PAY
INTEREST.



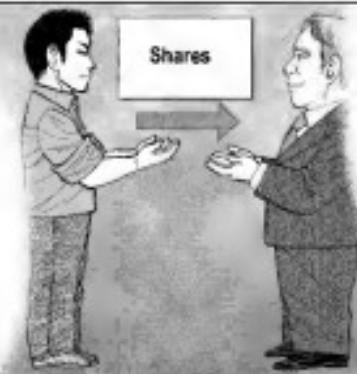
THE
BUSINESS
CAN
FOCUS ON
WORK.

IF THE
BORROWER
PAYS IT BACK,
THEN BOTH SIDES
ARE ON EQUAL
GROUND.

THE RECEIVER DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY THE MONEY BACK, AND NATURALLY THERE IS NO COLLATERAL AND NO INTEREST.



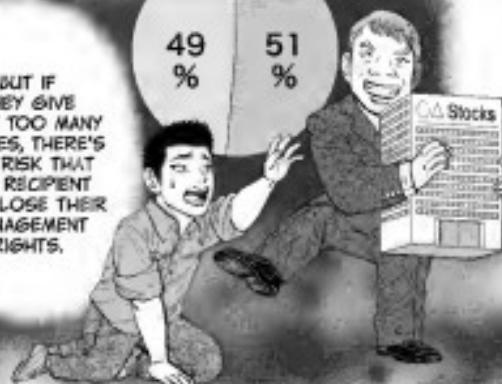
WHICH MEANS A PORTION OF THE COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT RIGHTS IS GIVEN TO THE FINANCIER.



BUT IF THEY GIVE AWAY TOO MANY SHARES, THERE'S THE RISK THAT THE RECIPIENT WILL LOSE THEIR MANAGEMENT RIGHTS.

49 %

51 %



ON THE OTHER HAND, FINANCING IS TO FLAT OUT GIVE OUT MONEY.

SOUNDS LIKE A SWEET DEAL, BUT THE RECEIVER MUST GIVE AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT IN SHARES TO THE FINANCIER.

THERE'S NO RISK, UNLIKE LENDING, SO THE RECIPIENT WILL DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO MAKE THEIR BUSINESS SUCCESSFUL.



YOU'RE BORN TO SUCH A RICH FAMILY, SO WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN STOCKS?

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU.

DO YOUR BEST, I GUESS.

I'LL BE WATCHING YOU FROM A DISTANCE.

SO THAT I CAN FIND MY OWN TRUE FREEDOM.

IT'S BECAUSE I WAS BORN TO A RICH FAMILY THAT MONEY IS ESSENTIAL TO ME.

SO IF I DON'T WANT TO BE DOMINATED, I MUST FIGHT BACK WITH THE POWER OF MONEY.

WHEN PEOPLE GIVE TO PEOPLE, THE MOST POWERFUL THING IS MONEY.

TRUE FREEDOM?

YOUR FREEDOM IS IN SOMEONE ELSE'S HANDS.

WHEN YOU'RE A RECEIVER, IT MEANS YOU'RE BEING DOMINATED.



I WAS
GOING TO
DEMOLISH
YOU IF YOU
CLAIMED
OTHERWISE.

THEN
WE'RE
ON THE
SAME
PAGE.



WELL...
SEE
YOU



THE
MAN WHO
BUILT THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB AT
DOJUKU INTO
WHAT IT IS
TODAY.

ZAIKEN
RYUGORO.

THEY
LOOK
LIKE DEAD
RINGERS.

HIS
GREAT-
GRAND-
SON IS
ZAIKEN
TAKASHI.

THE
PROPISY IN
MATH WHO
SHOWED A
STUNNING
ABILITY IN
INVESTMENTS.

OH,
AROUND
MID-
MEIJI
PERIOD.

AND THEN..

AFTER RYUGORO
GRADUATED FROM
DOJUKU, HE TOOK
A LEAVE OF
ABSENCE FROM
THE MATH
DEPARTMENT OF
TOKYO IMPERIAL
UNIVERSITY,
AND BECAME A
CHARISMATIC
FIGURE IN THE
FINANCIAL
WORLD.

EVEN BEFORE
HE EMERGED
ON THE SCENE,
THE FUJITA
FAMILY HAD
AN INVESTMENT
CLUB THE
STUDENTS
RAN, AND THEY
YIELDED
PROFIT BEYOND
EXPECTATIONS.

ZAIKEN
RYUGORO.

...JAPAN
PLUNGED
INTO THE
PACIFIC
WAR.

HE'S THE
ONE WHO
FIRED THE
GUN AT ITS
STARTING
LINE.





AND HIS
GREAT-
GRANDSON
IS ZAIZEN
TAKASHI.

HE'S THE
ONE THAT
LED THE
NATION
TO RUIN.

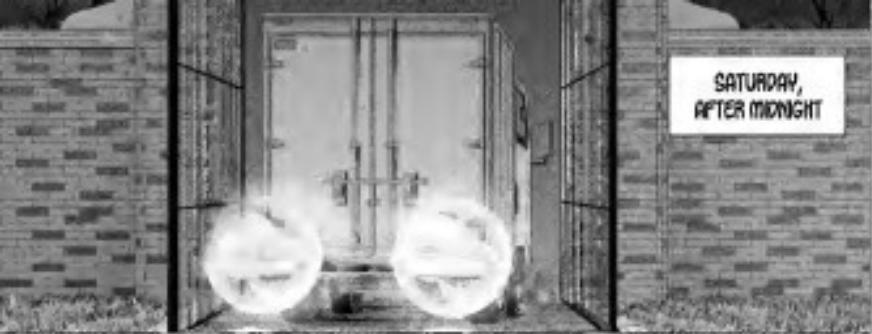








SATURDAY,
AFTER MIDNIGHT





I'M QUITE
RELIEVED.

TRUTH
BE
TOLD...

YOU
THINK
SO?

ZEN-SAN,
YOU LOOK
CHEERFUL.
I THOUGHT
MAYBE
YOU'D BE
SAD SEEING
THE
TREASURES
GO.

HUH?

I'M
REALLY
GRATEFUL
TO ZAIZEN-
KUN.

I'M
FRANKLY
TIRED OF
MONITORING
THESE
PRICELESS
THINGS.
I'VE BEEN
DOING IT
FOR 50
YEARS.

YES,
AND
I AM
WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT.

BUT
THAT
GUY'S
GOT A
STEEP
ROAD
AHEAD
OF
HIM.

I SEE...



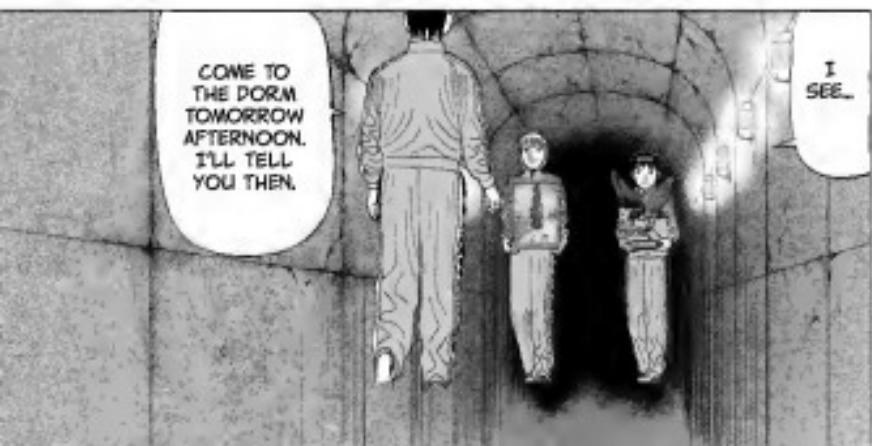


REN-SAN...
TEACH ME
ABOUT IP.
STEM
CELLS.



COME TO
THE DORM
TOMORROW
AFTERNOON.
I'LL TELL
YOU THEN.

I
SEE...









THOSE THINGS HAD NEVER BEEN INVESTED; THEY'VE BEEN KEPT IN STORAGE THROUGH WARS AND BUBBLES BURSTING.

I MUST SAY THIS IS AN EVENT THAT WILL HAVE QUITE AN IMPACT ON THE INVESTMENT CLUB'S HISTORY.

ZAIEN... IT'S ALL RIDING ON YOUR INVESTMENT DECISIONS.

WILL THIS BE A PIVOTAL POINT IN HISTORY, OR WILL IT BE THE GREATEST BLEMISH?

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW.

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO IT.

MAN... THAT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE.



THE NEXT DAY,
AFTERNOON:
DOJUKU DORMS



HAVE A
LOOK AT
THIS.

HAVE A
SEAT.

SO NICE
AND NEAT
IN HERE.
THE ROOM
REFLECTS
YOU.

OH...
THAT.

IT'S A
SUPER
FAMOUS
GRAPHIC.

THIS IMAGE
OF DERMAL
CELLS
INTERACTING
WITH
THUMPING
HEART
CELLS...

...AND
DECIDED I
WANTED TO
RESEARCH
STUFF LIKE
THIS.

I SAW THIS
VIDEO WHEN
I WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, AND
IT IMPACTED
ME A LOT.
I GOT REALLY
EXCITED...

—“INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL.”

INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL

I.P.S.
STANDS
FOR...

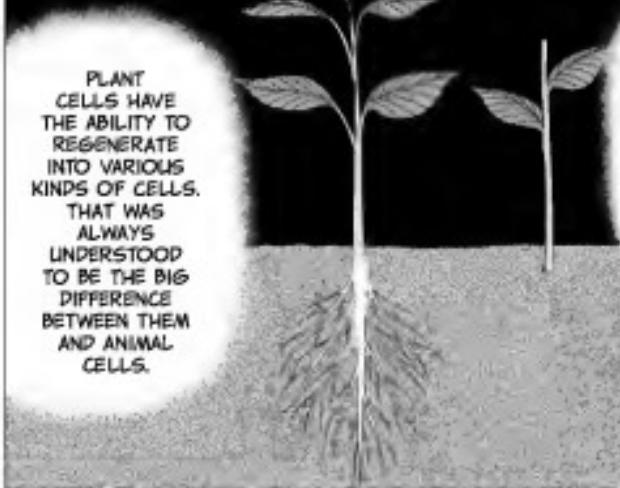
SUCH AS OF THE HEART, LIVER, SKIN, NERVES, AND SO ON.

SIMPLY PUT, IT'S AN ARTIFICIALLY ENGINEERED CELL THAT CAN TRANSFORM INTO VARIOUS KINDS OF OTHER CELLS...

...AND PRODUCED AN “ALL-PURPOSE” CELL.

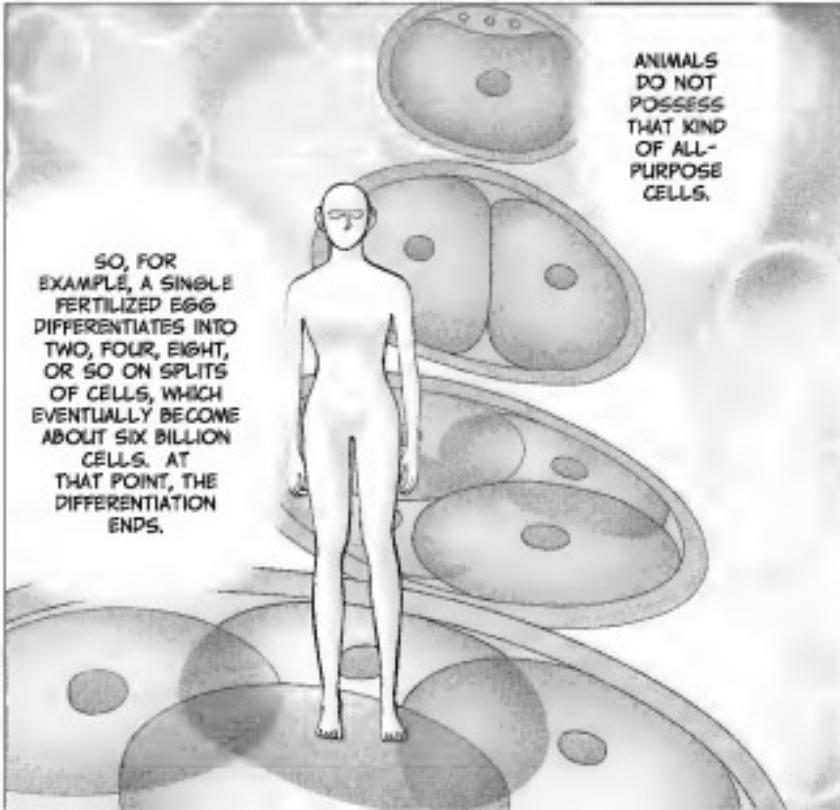
PROFESSOR YAMANAKA INJECTED FOUR GENES INTO NORMAL CELLS LIKE DERMAL CELLS...





PLANT CELLS HAVE THE ABILITY TO REGENERATE INTO VARIOUS KINDS OF CELLS. THAT WAS ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND ANIMAL CELLS.

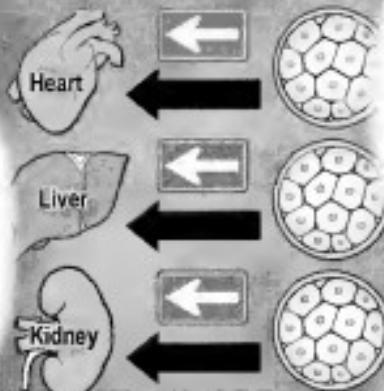
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT IF YOU CUT OFF HUMAN LEGS, THEY WON'T GROW BACK, RIGHT?



SO, FOR EXAMPLE, A SINGLE FERTILIZED EGG DIFFERENTIATES INTO TWO, FOUR, EIGHT, OR SO ON SPLITS OF CELLS, WHICH EVENTUALLY BECOME ABOUT SIX BILLION CELLS. AT THAT POINT, THE DIFFERENTIATION ENDS.

ANIMALS DO NOT POSSESS THAT KIND OF ALL-PURPOSE CELLS.

CELLS OF THE HEART ARE CELLS OF THE HEART, CELLS OF THE NERVES ARE CELLS OF THE NERVES; IN THAT WAY, THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF CELLS ARE ONE-WAY ROADS. THIS WAS THE NORMAL STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE WORLD OF BIOLOGY.



ONCE THE PROCESS OF DIFFERENTIATION IS FINISHED, THOSE CELLS CANNOT BECOME OTHER CELLS.

IT WAS ALREADY KNOWN THAT ANIMALS CELLS HAVE THAT KIND OF ABILITY,

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

HOWEVER, PROFESSOR YAMANAKA DISCOVERED THAT ANIMAL CELLS HAVE ALL-PURPOSE POTENTIAL LIKE PLANT CELLS DO!

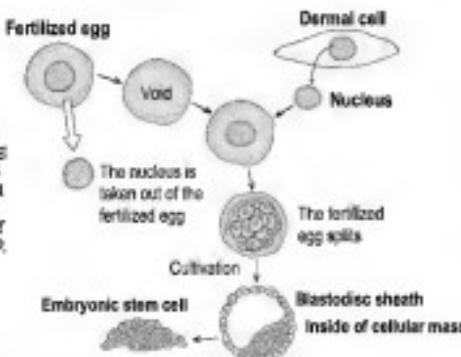
WHEN SPERM AND EGG JOIN, FERTILIZATION HAPPENS; THIS IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE, WHICH INDEED IS THE ALL-PURPOSE CELL.

THAT'S RIGHT.

BECAUSE FERTILIZED EGGS BECOME ALL KINDS OF SYSTEMS AND ORGANS.

OH... RIGHT.

BUT BIOETHICAL ISSUES CAME UP, AND ITS APPLICATION TO HUMAN BEINGS GOT QUESTIONED.

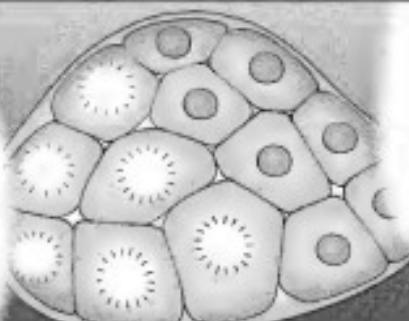


BUT THE EMBRYONIC STEM CELL CLAIMED THE WORLD'S ATTENTION, DISPLAYING THOSE QUALITIES, EVEN BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF I.P.S.. THEY SUCCEEDED IN PRODUCING NEW MULTIPURPOSE CELLS USING FERTILIZED EGGS.



IT WAS BELIEVED THAT ONLY GENES NECESSARY FOR DERMAL CELLS REMAIN, AND THE REST "DISAPPEAR."

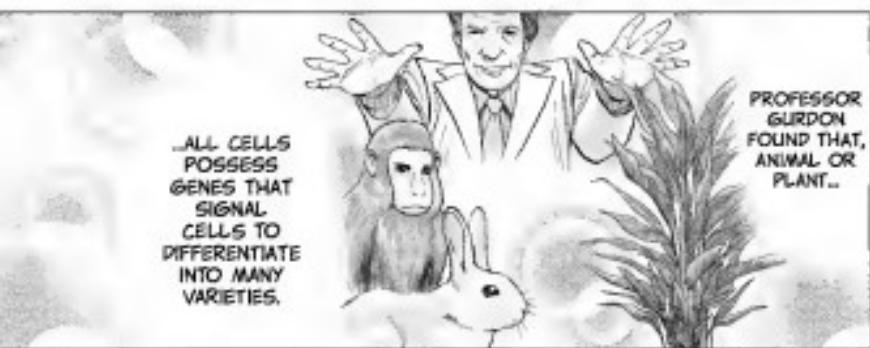
FOR EXAMPLE, DERMAL CELLS DIVIDE, AND SOME CELLS DIFFERENTIATE INTO DERMAL CELLS.





THAT WAS
PROFESSOR
JOHN GURDON,
WHO RECEIVED
THE NOBEL PRIZE
IN CONJUNCTION
WITH PROFESSOR
YAMANAKA.

BUT
THERE WAS A
SCIENTIST WHO
TENACIOUSLY
RESEARCHED
THE MATTER,
BECAUSE HE
WONDERED, "DO
GENES REALLY
DISAPPEAR?"



ALL CELLS
POSSESS
GENES THAT
SIGNAL
CELLS TO
DIFFERENTIATE
INTO MANY
VARIETIES.

PROFESSOR
GURDON
FOUND THAT,
ANIMAL OR
PLANT...



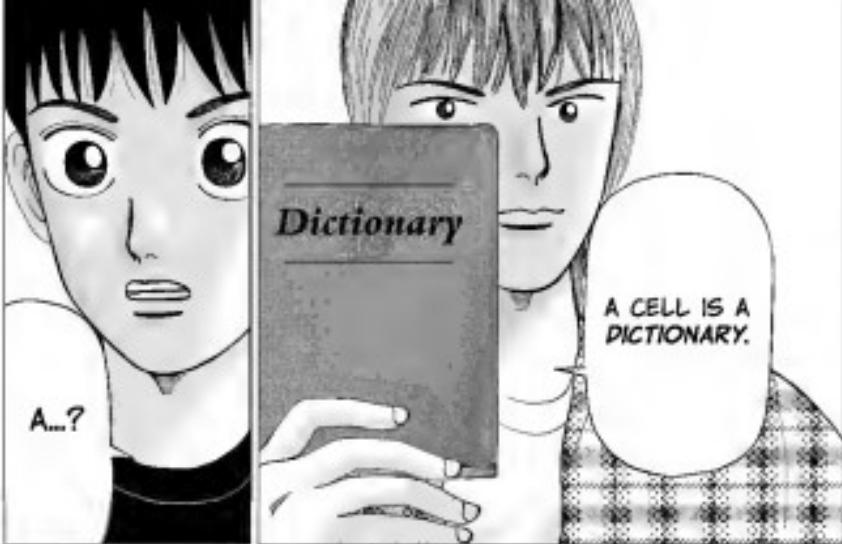
HUH?

Dictionary



A CELL
IS THIS.

THE
RESULT
OF HIS
RESEARCH
CAN BE
SUMMED
UP THIS
WAY!



...NO
MATTER
HOW MANY
TIMES A CELL
DIVIDES, THE
DICTIONARY
REMAINS
INTACT!

BUT HE
FOUND
THAT...



THE CELLS
THAT BECOME
SKIN HAVE A
BOOKMARK
ON THE
"SKIN PAGE."
THAT'S ALL.

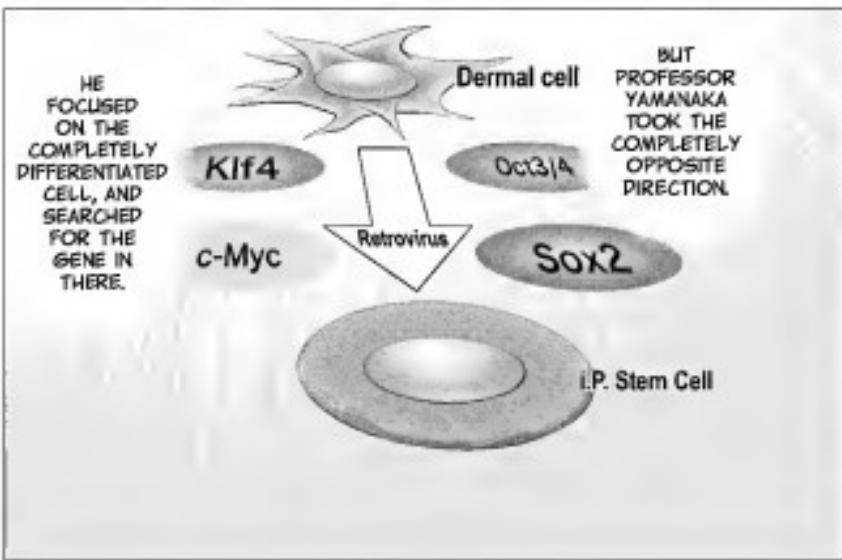
THE ONLY
THING THAT
CHANGES IS
THE PAGE
THAT HAS A
BOOKMARK
ON IT.



THIS IS
THE WAY
CELLS
REALY
ARE.

THE OTHER
PAGES OF
THE HEART,
KIDNEYS,
AND SO
ON AREN'T
TORN OUT;
THEY STAY
INTACT.





HE
SUCCEEDED IN
CHANGING AN
ORDINARY CELL
LIKE THE DERMAL
CELL INTO AN
"ALL-PURPOSE
CELL." AND THAT
CELL IS THE iP.
STEM CELL!

AS A
RESULT, BY
INJECTING
ONLY FOUR
GENES INTO A
NORMAL CELL,
HE DISCOVERED
THE BOOKMARK
GENE OF THE
EMBRYONIC
STEM CELL!

PROFESSOR
YAMANAKA'S
GREAT
WORK WAS
ENGINEERING
AN ALL-
PURPOSE CELL
OUT THAT
WASN'T FROM
A FERTILIZED
EGG.

WOW!
PROFESSOR
YAMANAKA
DID IT!

IT
REFLECTS
THE HOPE
THAT THE
TECHNOLOGY
WILL SPREAD
WORLDWIDE.

BY THE
WAY, THE
"T" IN "iPS"
CELL IS
LOWERCASE,
LIKE THE "T"
IN APPLE'S
"iPOD."



BY ADDING A GENE CALLED THE "YAMANAKA FACTOR," THEY WERE ABLE TO INSERT A BOOKMARK INTO THE PAGE OF ALL-PURPOSE CELLS, BUT AS TO WHY IT WORKS, NO ONE KNOWS.

THEY DON'T KNOW.

WHY NOT?
BECAUSE IT ACTUALLY WORKS.

IS THAT OKAY?

I THINK THEY SHOULD RESEARCH THE PRINCIPLE AT WORK.

I DUNNO.

DO YOU KNOW WHY AIRPLANES FLY?

WELL...

BUT
PEOPLE
ACTUALLY
DON'T
KNOW
WHY
PLANES
CAN FLY.

AIRPLANES
FLY IN
PROVES
EVERY
DAY...

WHY
AIRPLANES
FLY?

NO
ONE HAS
EXPLAINED IT
SCIENTIFICALLY
YET.

"WHY CAN
AIRPLANES
FLY?"

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

WHAT?

CAN'T BE
EXPLAINED
BY SCIENCE?
THAT'S
RIDICULOUS.

WHY
AIRPLANES
FLY..

THE PHYSICS
OF FLYING
AIRPLANES IS
EXPLAINED BY
BERNOULLI'S
PRINCIPLE.

AND
IT'S
NOT
TRUE.

...THE AIRPLANE
LIFTS BY
THE HOISTING
DYNAMIC FROM
AIR PRESSURE
THAT FORMS
AROUND THE
WINGS.

SEE...

LET'S SEE...

AND WHEN YOU EXPLAIN IT IN A DIAGRAM?

...AND IT FLOWS BY DIVIDING TO THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE WINGS. THE TOP OF THE WINGS IS CURVED, SO IT HAS COMPARATIVELY MORE DISTANCE THAN THE BOTTOM.

LET'S SAY THIS IS A CROSS-SECTION OF THE PLANE'S WINGS. WHEN THE AIRPLANE RUNS DOWN THE RUNWAY, AIR HITS ITS WINGS...

THEN, ACCORDING TO THE BERNOULLI PRINCIPLE, THE FASTER AIR PRESSURE GOES LOWER, LIFTING THE AIRPLANE FROM BOTTOM UP, MOVING THE PLACE WITH THE HIGHER PRESSURE TO THE LOWER.

THE DIVIDED AIR CONVERGES SIMULTANEOUSLY BEHIND THE WINGS, SO THE AIR THAT FLOWS OVER THE LONGER TOP PART GOES FASTER THAN ON THE BOTTOM.

THAT'S JUST A HYPOTHESIS.

ISN'T THAT ALL THERE IS TO IT?

THIS IS THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND WHY PLANES FLY.

WHAT?

OH...

DOES AIR SIMULTANEOUSLY CONVERGE BEHIND THE WINGS?

BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM BY EXPERIMENT THAT THE AIR THAT FLOWS OVER THE TOP IS FASTER.

WHEN THEY EXPERIMENTED, THEY FOUND THAT THE AIR THAT DIVIDES TO THE TOP AND BOTTOM DOESN'T ACTUALLY CONVERGE TOGETHER.





MAYBE SO.
HMM...



THAT'S HOW
IT IS.



BUT JUST
BECAUSE THE
PRINCIPLE
CAN'T BE
EXPLAINED,
THAT DOESN'T
MEAN PEOPLE
WON'T FLY IN
AIRPLANES.



THEY'D
RATHER BE
TRANSPORTED
IN SOMETHING
THAT CAN GO
THE LONGEST
DISTANCE IN
THE SHORTEST
TIME.

EVEN IF
THEY
DON'T
KNOW
HOW IT
WORKS



BUT IF IT
CAN BE PUT
TO ACTUAL
USE, MANY
PATIENTS
COULD BE
SAVED.

WHY DO
NORMAL CELLS
CHANGE INTO
ALL-PURPOSE
I.P.S. CELLS?
NO ONE KNOWS
THE REASON
FOR THAT,
EITHER.



YOU
FORGE
AHEAD,
EVEN IF
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
I THINK
THAT'S
WHAT'S
IMPORTANT.

YOU DON'T
STAY STUCK
IN ONE PLACE
BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
SOMETHING.

I
AGREE.

YOU FORGE
AHEAD, EVEN
IF YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

YES.
THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT.

LET'S
INVESTIGATE
JAPANESE
BIOTECH
INDUSTRIES.
IT'LL PROBABLY
HELP YOU TO
FIND POTENTIAL
VENTURE
INVESTMENTS.





I'M YOUR
DAD'S
OLDER
BROTHER,
ZAIZEN
KAZUYOSHI

HI
THERE.

I'M
TAKASHI

H-HOW
DO YOU
DO?

I SEE.
HE LOOKS
JUST LIKE
YOU, VERY
BRIGHT.

HE'S IN
HIS FIRST
YEAR OF
JUNIOR
HIGH.

OKAY.

TAKASHI,
HAVE A
SEAT.

I'VE NEVER
HEARD OF HIM.
I THOUGHT MY
DAD WAS AN
ONLY CHILD,
RAISED BY
HIS SINGLE
MOTHER.

MY DAD'S
BROTHER?
HE HAS A
BROTHER?

SINCE KAZUHIKO-KUN'S MOTHER'S FUNERAL.

IT'S BEEN 30 YEARS SINCE YOUR FATHER AND I LAST SAW EACH OTHER.

I BET YOU'RE SURPRISED BY MY SUDDEN VISIT.

OH... NO.

IT'S FINE. HE'S OLD ENOUGH TO LEARN THE FACTS.

UH...

WHAT?

...HAVE DIFFERENT MOTHERS.

YOU SEE, YOUR UNCLE AND FATHER...

HE SAID MY FATHER'S FATHER, MY GRANDFATHER KONOSUKE, MARRIED THREE WOMEN, AND MY FATHER IS THE SON OF THE THIRD WIFE.

UNCLE KAZUYOSHI STARTED TALKING.

THERE ARE A TOTAL OF EIGHT SIBLINGS, INCLUDING HIM AND MY DAD.

UNCLE KAZUYOSHI IS THE OLDEST CHILD OF THE SECOND WIFE, AND HE'S OVER 60 YEARS OLD.

...MY GRANDFATHER KONOSUKE DIED AT THE AGE OF 96.

LAST MONTH, HE SAID...



STOCKS?

...TAKAHICO-KUN. HE SAYS THAT HE WANTS YOU TO HAVE HIS STOCK HOLDINGS.

IN WHICH...

THE HOLDINGS ARE VALUED AROUND 30 MILLION YEN. THERE ARE STEEL STOCKS, NAVIGATION INDUSTRIES, AND SO ON.

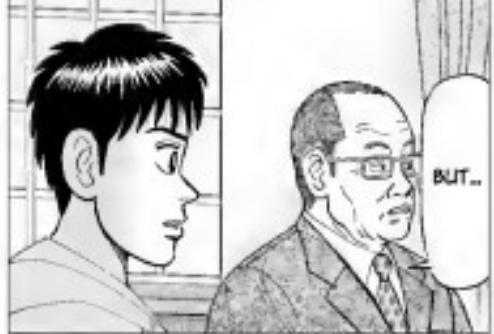
RIGHT. I'VE TRANSFERRED THEM TO AN ACCOUNT AT A JAPANESE BROKERAGE FIRM.

NO.

TAKASHI, LEAVE THE ROOM.

TH-THIRTY MILLION?





MY UNCLE
PLEASER
WITH MOTHER
SEVERAL
TIMES, WANTING
TO OPEN UP A
DISCUSSION
ABOUT THIS
MATTER.

SHORTLY
THEREAFTER,
I SAW MY UNCLE
OFF TO THE BUS
DEPOT; HE WAS
GOING BACK TO
TOKYO.

...TAKA-
HIKO'S
SENPAI AT
HOKKAIDO
UNIVERSITY.

HE
WAS...

UNTIL THE
BUS CAME,
MY UNCLE AND
MOTHER TALKED
FOR A WHILE.

IN ASA-
HIKAWA,
MY
FATHER
IS A
VET. HE
ALSO
RAISES
COWS.

WHERE
ARE YOUR
PARENTS?

I SEE.

AFTER
TAKAHICO-SAN
GOT A TEACHING
POSITION AT
HOKKAIDO
UNIVERSITY, WE
DECIDED TO LIVE
IN HOKKAIDO
AFTER WE GOT
MARRIED.

OH?
WHY?

LIVES IN
SAPPORO,
HOKKAIDO.

I MUST
SAY
I WAS
SURPRISED
TO HEAR
THAT
HE...

IT'S
JUST
UNUSUAL
FOR A
ZAIEN
FAMILY
MEMBER
TO LIVE IN
HOKKAIDO.

OH...
NOTHING.

...THAT WE
SIBLINGS
MUST NEVER
GO TO
HOKKAIDO.

OUR
PARENTS AND
RELATIVES
HAVE TOLD
US STRICTLY,
EVER SINCE
WE WERE
LITTLE...

I
THINK MAYBE
SOMETHING
UNFORTUNATE
MIGHT HAVE
HAPPENED IN
HOKKAIDO, A
LONG TIME
AGO.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHY.

WHY... IS
THAT?





AS I SAW MY UNCLE'S BUS LEAVE, I FELT FLUTTERING WAVES IN MY CHEST.



ON MY FATHER'S SIDE, I ONLY KNOW MY UNCLE, WHO I JUST MET TODAY. I ALSO JUST LEARNED THAT MY FATHER'S MOTHER DIED A LONG TIME AGO.

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND THE ONLY RELATIVES I KNOW ARE MY MOTHER'S FAMILY IN ASAHIKAWA.



AN UNIMAGINABLE LABYRINTH HAD SUDDENLY OPENED BEFORE ME, SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THE INVESTMENT CLUB.

AND THEN A BEQUEATHAL OF 30 MILLION YEN WORTH OF STOCKS, AS IF RAINED FROM THE HEAVENS.

AND THE
CONNECTION
OF THE
ZAIKEN
FAMILY TO
HOKKAIDO.

THE
KEY TO
THE PUZZLE
LIES IN MY
FATHER'S
ROOTS.

WHAT
WILL I
FIND?

WHAT'S
THE
SECRET?

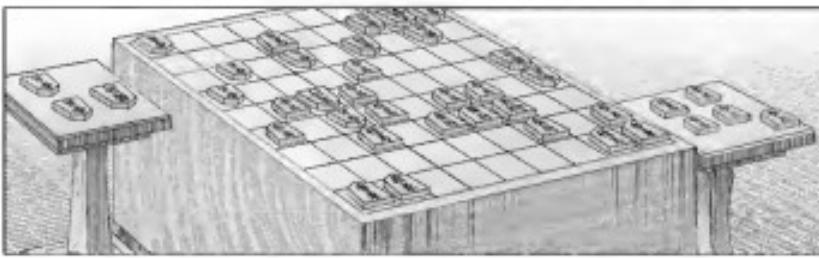
AND
WHERE AM I
GOING?

WHO AM I?
WHERE DID I
COME FROM?









BUT
I'M ALL
RIGHT.

YEAH, A
LITTLE.

I BET
YOU WERE
SURPRISED
TODAY.

WHY DID
YOU GO TO
HOKKAIDO
UNIVERSITY?

U.M...

GOOP.

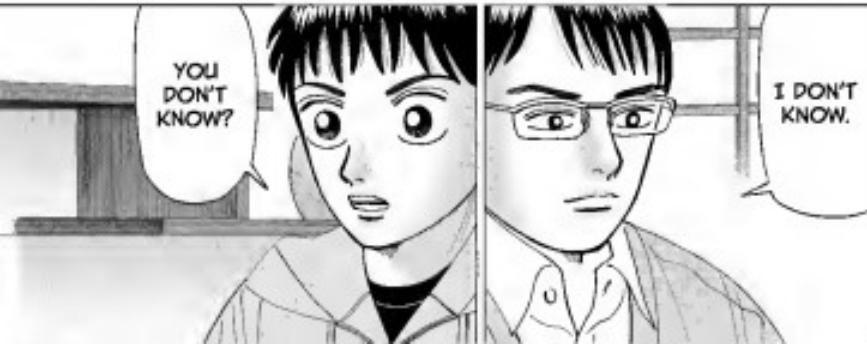
...MY HIGH
SCHOOL
TEACHER
SUGGESTED
IT.

WELL...

HE SAID THERE
WERE MANY
OUTSTANDING
TEACHERS
AT HOKKAIDO
UNIVERSITY,
AND SUGGESTED
I STUDY WITH
THEM.

YOUR
HIGH
SCHOOL
TEACHER?





I GUESS I DON'T HAVE MUCH INTEREST IN ZAIZEN ANCESTRY.

MY MOTHER HAD NO CONTACT WITH THE ZAIZEN SIDE, EITHER.

SO WHEN IT COMES TO MY GRANDFATHER, WELL... I'VE NEVER MET HIM NOR HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.

I PARTED WITH MY FATHER WHEN I WAS THREE, SO I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THESE THINGS?

I SEE...

I SEE...

OH, JUST WONDERING.

GOOD MOVE.

CONVER-SION TO KIN.

THERE!
THAT'S HIM!



PROFESSOR
IN GEOPHYSICS,
AN AUTHORITY IN
SEISMOLOGICAL
RESEARCH.
HMM.

ZAIEN
KONO-
SUKE.

I'M
GETTING
MORE
AND
MORE
CURIOS
ABOUT
THE ZAIEN
FAMILY'S
PAST...!

SOSH!

OR MAYBE
HE JUST
INHERITED
THOSE STOCKS.

HE
WAS A
SCHOLAR,
AND YET HE
DEALT IN
STOCKS.



...LOOKING
OVER
EVERYONE'S
INVESTMENTS
IN GENERAL...

SO...

I'VE
DECIDED
NOT TO
BUY AND
SELL GAME
STOCKS
ANYMORE.

YES.

YOU
HAVEN'T
MADE ANY
GAME-
RELATED
INVESTMENTS
SINCE
GAME
CRAZY.

ZAIEN...

...THE
SCALE
OF THE
MARKET
IS TOO
SMALL.

BECAUSE...



JUST
800 BILLION
YEN IN
JAPAN.

THE
WORLDWIDE
GAMING
MARKET IS
ONLY WORTH
ABOUT
6 TRILLION
YEN.



ONE
SINGLE
BUSINESS
EXCEEDS
THE ENTIRE
GAME
INDUSTRY
IN SCOPE.

ON THE
WHOLE,
7-ELEVEN
PROFITS
ABOUT 9.9
TRILLION
YEN.



I REALIZED
THAT FLASHY
AND SHOWY
INDUSTRIES
ARE ACTUALLY
QUITE SMALL.

I CAME
TO REALIZE
THAT THIS
KIND OF
COMPARISON
IS EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT.

EVERY
TIME A NEW
PRODUCTION
COMES OUT, THEY
ADVERTISE ON A
BIG SCALE USING
VARIOUS MEDIA;
AT A GLANCE, IT
SEEMS LIKE A
PROSPEROUS
INDUSTRY...

TAKE
THE FILM
INDUSTRY.



EVEN THE
PICKLED GINGER
MARKET IS WORTH
10 BILLION, SO
WHEN YOU LOOK
AT IT THAT WAY,
IT'S NOT MUCH OF
A MARKET.

THAT'S ONLY
HALF THE
SIZE OF THE
BEEF BOWL
MARKET.

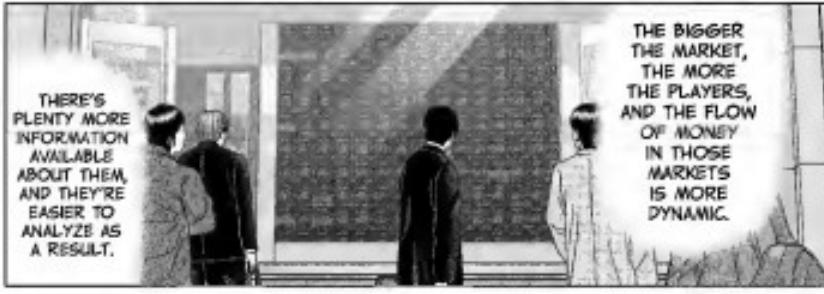
WELL-KNOWN
TRADES AND
BUSINESSES
PARTICULARLY
POPULAR AMONG
YOUTH HAVE
SMALL MARKETS,
AND THEY'RE
ECONOMICALLY
WEAK.

YOU CAN
SEE HOW
THE WORLD
WORKS BY
COMPARING
SCALES
OF THE
MARKET.



THE MARKET FOR AUTOS IS 50 TRILLION YEN. ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES ARE WORTH 60 TRILLION YEN, CONSTRUCTION 50 TRILLION YEN, RESTAURANTS 30 TRILLION YEN, MEDICINE 40 TRILLION YEN, AND LIFE INSURANCE 40 TRILLION YEN.

ON THE OTHER HAND, INDUSTRIES THAT APPEAR MODEST ARE SOMETIMES LARGER THAN EXPECTED.



THERE'S PLENTY MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT THEM, AND THEY'RE EASIER TO ANALYZE AS A RESULT.

THE BIGGER THE MARKET, THE MORE THE PLAYERS, AND THE FLOW OF MONEY IN THOSE MARKETS IS MORE DYNAMIC.



THE CONCLUSION I'VE COME TO AFTER RESEARCHING THESE THINGS IS...



SO I HAVE TO AVOID INVESTING FOR THE INVESTMENT CLUB IN HIGH-RISK, SMALL MARKETS.



AS FOR ME, I HAVE TO RESEARCH BIOTECH VENTURES.





CHOOSING
A MARKET
BASED ON
WHETHER THEY
HAVE WOMEN
WHO PLAY A
MAJOR PART.

INDUSTRIES
IN WHICH
WOMEN
HAVE A
PROMINENT
ROLE.

OH!
THAT'S
GOOD.

ISN'T
IT?

OH!
THAT'S
GOOD.

LET'S
INVESTIGATE
WHICH
INDUSTRIES
HAVE WOMEN
IN HIGH
POSITIONS.

SO WE
THOUGHT.
"LET'S
FOCUS
ON
WOMEN."

WE LOOKED
AT ALL THE
MATERIAL
TO
HELP US
DECIDE WHERE
TO INVEST,
BUT FRANKLY
WE DON'T
UNDERSTAND
IT WELL.

LIKE
I SAID
BEFORE,
IT'S BEST
TO MAKE
DECISIONS
BASED
ON YOUR
THINGS THAT
MATTER
TO YOU.

GOOD
MOVE!



IT'S
HELL.

IS JOB-HUNTING THAT BAD?



IF I'M NOT READY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, IT'LL BE TOO LATE.

AS SOON AS I ENTERED THE THIRD YEAR IN COLLEGE, I'VE BEEN BARRAGED WITH SEMINARS AND LECTURES.

I'VE LOOKED INTO AIRLINE COMPANIES, TRAVEL AGENCIES...

WHAT KIND OF PLACES ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

LIFE INSURANCE, AND THAT'S ABOUT IT.

...SO THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKELY.

MY FIRST CHOICE IS THE MEDIA, BUT THE COMPETITION IS HIGH.







MINE
INCREASED
BY 20%.



EACH
OF US
STARTED
WITH
100,000
YEN SEED
MONEY,
AND WE
BOUGHT
STOCKS.

WE
STARTED
AN
INVESTMENT
CLUB, ME
AND TWO
OF MY
FRIENDS.



REALLY...



I THINK
IT WOULD
BE VERY
USEFUL IN
HELPING
YOU
RESEARCH
BUSINESSES.

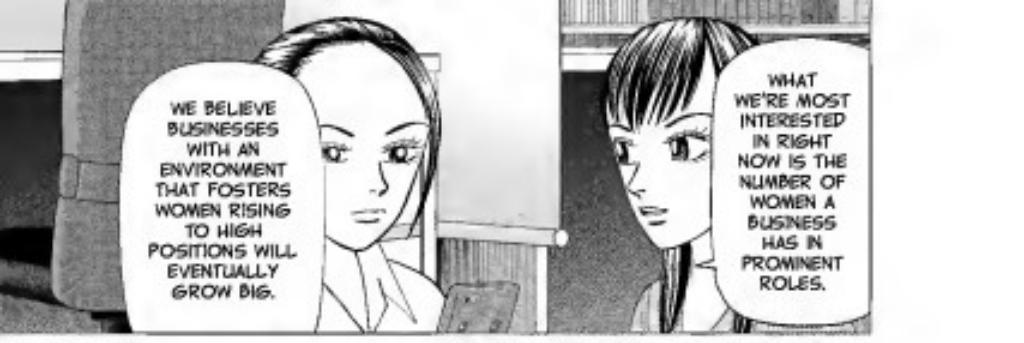


IF YOU
BOUGHT
STOCKS...



THEIR
CURRENT
PROCEEDS,
FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS,
GROWTH
POTENTIAL...

YOU MAKE
DECISIONS TO
INVEST OR
NOT INVEST BY
THOROUGHLY
INVESTIGATING
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE
ABOUT
COMPANIES.



WE BELIEVE
BUSINESSES
WITH AN
ENVIRONMENT
THAT FOSTERS
WOMEN RISING
TO HIGH
POSITIONS WILL
EVENTUALLY
GROW BIG.

WHAT
WE'RE MOST
INTERESTED
IN RIGHT
NOW IS THE
NUMBER OF
WOMEN A
BUSINESS
HAS IN
PROMINENT
ROLES.



I THINK
YOU'LL
LEARN ABOUT
DIFFERENT
BUSINESSES,
AND IT'LL
MAKE YOUR
JOB-HUNTING
EASIER.



I'VE
STARTED
THINKING
ABOUT THINGS
LIKE THIS
EVER SINCE
I STARTED
BUYING AND
SELLING
STOCKS.



SO WHY
DON'T YOU
ALSO TRY
OUT THE
STOCK
MARKET?





SHE'S
LOOKING
DOWN AT
ME...



SHE THINKS
SHE'S AN
ELITE, NOW
THAT SHE'S
A STUDENT
AT KEIN.

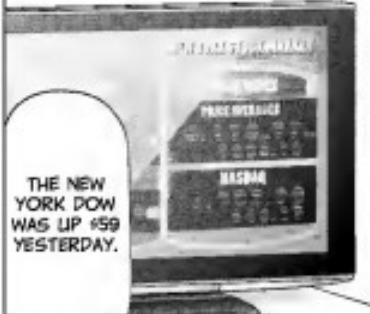
SHE THINKS
I'M STUPID
BECAUSE I
ATTENDED
A MIDDLE-
LEVEL
PRIVATE
SCHOOL.

I HOPE
YOU GO
BROKE.

AND AN
INVESTMENT
CLUB?
WHAT A
JOKE.

SHE'S
THE KIND
WHO'LL
NEVER
SUCCEED
IN LIFE.

SHE'S
NOT GOING TO
MAKE IT... SHE'S
NOT TRYING TO
DO ANYTHING
DIFFERENT FROM
THE PEOPLE
AROUND HER.





YEAH



IT
IMPOVER-
ISHES
YOU TO
THE CORE
OF YOUR
SOUL.



POVERTY
IS NO
GOOD.



ONE...
TWO...









BECAUSE
JAPAN IS A
JOB-HUNTING
HEAVEN FOR
STUDENTS!

BECAUSE
IT'S
PARADISE!



THAT'S
ABSORB...

JOB-
HUNTING
HEAVEN?



"WHAT
YOU'RE
THINKING,
RIGHT?
WELL,
YOU'RE
GREATLY
MISTAKEN.

"WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
WE'RE
STRUGGLING
TO DEATH.
IT'S CRAZY
TOUGH OUT
THERE."



THEY
PAINSTAKINGLY
NURTURE NEW
GRADUATES
WHO CAN'T
GENERATE A
PENNY OF
PROFIT, WITH
AN ANNUAL
COST OF
CLOSE TO 10
MILLION YEN.

EVEN
AFTER
LANDING
A JOB,
JAPANESE
INDUSTRIES
ARE VERY
KIND.

SENPAS ASSIST
IN BUILDING YOU
UP TO BECOME
FULL-FLEDGED
ADULTS, AND GIVE
YOU HANDS-ON
EXPERIENCE AT
WORK SITES;
THIS PLANNED
CULTIVATION
OF FUTURE
WORKERS GETS
HANDED DOWN IN
SUCCESSION.

YOU MAY HAVE
HEARD RECENT
TALK OF THEIR
SEARCHING FOR
"BATTLE-READY
WORKERS," BUT
THAT'S ONLY THEIR
WAY OF TELLING
STUDENTS TO
STUDY WELL.

AT THE
ROOTS OF IT
ALL IS THE
SOLID AFTER
SCHOOL CLUB
CULTURE OF
JAPAN, WHICH
IS GREATLY
VALUABLE IN
THE PROCESS
OF HELPING
FLEDGLING
PEOPLE GROW,
STEP BY STEP.

THAT IS
BECAUSE
JAPANESE
PEOPLE LOVE
THE WORD
"GROWTH."



IT
TRULY IS A
JAPANESE
METHOD OF
GROWING
HUMAN
RESOURCES,
AS DEDICATED
AS FANS
CHEERING
FOR THEIR
POP-STAR
IDOLS!



SOCIETY
PROVIDES AN
ENVIRONMENT IN
WHICH YOU CAN
GROW HEALTHILY,
JUST BY SIMPLY
GOING ALONG
FOR THE RIDE.

EVERYONE
IS SLUGILY
INTEGRATED
INTO THIS
PROCESS.



THOSE WHO
GRIPE AND CLAIM
JOB-HUNTING IS
TOUGH, OR WHINE
THAT SOCIETY
IS COLD AND
HEARTLESS...
THEY SHOULD
BE ASHAMED OF
THEMSELVES!

NOW, WHAT IS THE CURRENT JOB-HUNTING SITUATION LIKE FOR YOU FOLKS...

YEAH, BUT THE FACT IS, YOU APPLY TO 100 COMPANIES, AND MAYBE ONE OF THEM MIGHT GIVE YOU AN UNOFFICIAL TRYOUT.

HUH?

BY THE WAY, YOU THERE.

HOW MANY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ARE CURRENTLY IN JAPAN?

HOW MANY ARE THERE? I... I DUNNO.

H-HOW MANY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES?

HUH?



I'M SO
HUMILIATED
RIGHT
NOW.



THERE
ARE FOUR
MILLION
COMPANIES.



BUT
STILL,
JOB-
HUNTING
COMPETITION
HAPPENS.
WHY IS
THAT?

THE NUMBER
OF NEW COLLEGE
GRADUATES
LOOKING
FOR JOBS IS
APPROXIMATELY
450,000, SO IT'S
GUARANTEED THEY
SHOULD LAND A
JOB WITHOUT
EVEN TRYING.



OF
COURSE!
WHO
WANTS TO
WORK AT
A SMALL
PLACE?



...AND
EVERYONE
IGNORES
THE MEDIUM
AND SMALL,
SCRAMBLING
TO THE 0.3%
MAJOR
CORPORATIONS
INSTEAD.

THAT IS
BECAUSE 99.7%
OF THOSE
FOUR MILLION
COMPANIES
ARE MEDIUM
OR SMALL
CORPORATIONS.

"FORGET
THE MAJOR
CORPORATIONS!
GET INTO THE
SMALL OR
MEDIUM!"

BUT I
HAVE NO
INTENTION
WHATEVER
OF TELLING
YOU:

YOUR
SCHOOL
RECORDS
DON'T MATTER!
APPLY TO
PRESTIGIOUS,
FANCY,
GLORIOUS
COMPANIES!
PULL OUT ALL
STOPS!

GO
FOR THE
MAJORS!
ALL OUT!

DON'T SAY
STUFF LIKE OLD
PEOPLE: "I HAVE
TO BE SATISFIED
WITH MY STATION
IN LIFE." THAT'S
UNATTRACTIVE!
STRETCH YOUR
ARMS AS WIDE
AS THEY'LL GO,
AND FORGE
AHEAD TO
THE MAJOR
CORPORATIONS!

AIM HIGH!
THAT IS A
YOUNG
PERSON'S
PREROGATIVE!
SO YOU MAKE
MISTAKES?
THAT'S FINE,
TOO!



LEARN FOR
YOURSELF
THAT MAJOR
CORPORATIONS
HAVE JUDGED
YOU AS NOT
BEING SUPERIOR
HIRING
MATERIAL!

YOU'LL
GET SIFTED
THROUGH,
AND YOU'LL
FALL, BUT
GO FOR IT
ANYWAY!



THAT'S
ONLY THEIR
OPINION OF
YOU, AND
NOTHING
MORE.

BUT
SO WHAT?
NONE OF
THAT MEANS
ANYTHING.



ALL
RIGHT,
LET'S
DROP
OUR AIM
A NOTCH
FOR
SOMewhere
EASIER
TO GET
INTO.

SO...
LET'S
SAY THE
MAJOR
COMPANIES
WERE A
BUST.

I DON'T
THINK SO...
I'D FEEL
HURT AND
DEPRESSED.

BECAUSE THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY YOU'D KNOW THE QUALITY OF A MEDIUM-LEVEL BUSINESS, WHETHER IT'S BAD OR GOOD.



STILL, YOU IMPATIENTLY RUSH INTO THEM ANYWAY.



WHEN YOU SHIFT YOUR AIM FROM MAJOR BUSINESSES TO MEDIUM-LEVEL BUSINESSES, YOUR JOB-HUNTING LIFE WILL SUDDENLY BECOME CHAOTIC.



BUT THINGS AREN'T GOING TO GO THAT CONVENIENTLY.

ROBBED OF VITALITY FROM JOB-HUNTING FATIGUE, THEY LOSE THEIR YOUTHFUL RADIANCE! ALL THAT REMAINS IS AN AURA OF MENACING BLOOD-THIRSTINESS!



AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS? UNFORTUNATELY, STUDENTS LOSE THEIR ATTRACTIVE QUALITIES.

